Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 5, 7-14, 19 and 25 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 11, 19 and 25 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4 (CANCELLED):

5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A communication apparatus capable of using a plurality of communication channels comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a communication scheme in which a user determines whether or not a bulk communication is granted to a communication partner utilizing all of the plurality of communication channels in a sending communication and a receiving communication independently;

a communication unit configured to conduct the bulk communication and a non-bulk communication with a partner via a plurality of communication channels; and

a control unit configured to control the number of communication channels in the sending communication and the receiving communication separately in accordance with the communication scheme set by said setting unit enabling the user to control the bulk communication in the sending communication and the receiving communication independently.

6 (CANCELLED):

7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said communication unit can communicate with a plurality of communication partners, and said

setting unit can set the number of channels used when a communication with another communication partner is to be started while communicating using the communication channels, the number of which is controlled by said control unit.

8 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said setting unit sets whether or not a communication with another communication partner is granted.

9 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said communication apparatus can connect a plurality of external communication apparatuses, and

said setting unit can set whether or not a communication via the plurality of communication channels is granted in each of the plurality of external communication apparatuses.

10 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said communication unit can communicate using a plurality of communication schemes, and

said setting unit can set whether or not a communication via the plurality of communication channels is granted in each of the plurality of communication schemes.

11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A communication apparatus comprising:

a communication unit configured to conduct a bulk communication and a non-bulk communication with a partner via a plurality of communication channels;

a setting unit configured to set a communication scheme in which a user determines whether or not the bulk communication is granted <u>to a communication partner utilizing all of the plurality of communication channels</u> in a sending communication and a receiving communication independently;

a detection unit configured to detect whether the bulk communication is requested in the sending communication and the receiving communication independently; and

a ~~contro~~ control unit configured to control the number of communication channels in the sending communication and the receiving communication according to detection result from said detection unit thereby granting or denying the bulk communication in the sending communication and the receiving communication independently according to the communication scheme set by said setting unit.

12 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said setting unit sets whether or not the sending communication is accepted when said detection unit detects the sending communication, and whether or not the receiving communication is accepted when said detection unit detects the receiving communication.

13 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said communication apparatus can connect a plurality of external communication apparatuses, and

said setting unit can set whether or not a communication via the plurality of communication channels is granted in each of the plurality of external communication apparatuses.

14 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said communication unit can communicate using a plurality of communication schemes, and

said setting unit can also set whether or not a communication via the plurality of communication channels is granted in each of the plurality of communication schemes.

15-18 (CANCELLED):

19 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method of controlling a communication apparatus capable of using a plurality of communication channels comprising:

a setting step of setting a communication scheme in which a user determines whether or not a bulk communication is granted to a communication partner utilizing all of the plurality of communication channels in a sending communication and a receiving communication independently;

a communication step of conducting the bulk communication and a non-bulk communication with a partner via the plurality of communication channels; and

a control step of controlling the number of communication channels in the sending communication and the receiving communication separately in accordance with the communication scheme set in the setting step enabling the user to control the bulk communication in the sending communication and the receiving communication independently.

20-24 (CANCELLED):

25 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method of controlling a communication apparatus comprising:

a communication step of conducting a bulk communication and a non-bulk communication with a partner via a plurality of communication channels;

a setting step of setting a communication scheme in which a user determines whether or not the bulk communication is granted to a communication partner utilizing all of the

plurality of communication channels in a sending communication and a receiving communication independently;

a detection step of detecting whether the bulk communication is requested in the sending communication and the receiving communication independently; and

a control step of controlling the number of communication channels in the sending communication and the receiving communication according to detection result from said detection step thereby granting or denying the bulk communication in the sending communication and the receiving communication independently according to the communication scheme set by said setting step.

26-31 (CANCELLED):